Answers

By **BGEA Staff (https://billygraham.org/author/bgea-staff/)** • *June 1, 2004* • **Topics:** Bible (https://billygraham.org/grow-your-faith/topics/christianity/bible/)

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Q:

Does God require us to follow the Old Testament laws about not eating pork and other kinds of meat today?

A:

The dietary laws for Israel recorded in Leviticus, chapter 11, which include, for example, a prohibition against eating pork, were given for specific religious and, perhaps, health reasons.

The New Testament, however, makes it clear that observation of these Old Testament food laws for religious reasons is no longer required in the New Testament era. Jesus Himself declared that all foods were "clean" (Mark 7:17-23).

In Acts 10:9-16, Peter was informed by God through a vision that he was not to reject the use of certain animals for food on a religious basis. The apostle Paul also writes, "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer" (1 Timothy 4:4).

The Bible makes it clear that "the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17).

There is no saving grace in either eating or not eating certain foods. We are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; see Ephesians 2:8-10. This, of course, does not mean that all animals we use for food are of equal value when it comes to our health.

Many people feel they can win God's favor and have eternal life by following the dietary laws of the Old Testament. But this is a misunderstanding. You cannot save yourself—but Christ can, and He will as you commit your life to Him by faith.

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133 Comments

Anita Magana says:

March 11, 2018 at 12:14 pm (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1668594)

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It was very helpful in our studies.

Debbie McClinton says:

March 8, 2018 at 8:22 pm (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1668112)

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Billy Graham will be so missed. He was truly a man that loved the Lord.

Seifedin Tahir says:

March 4, 2018 at 3:24 pm (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1666812)

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Please teach me more.

Justin says:

February 6, 2018 at 1:47 am (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1647882)

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I just read something online that said how eating pork was against God's will, and in the end you won't be accepted because did it. So thank you for this answer. It sets my mind at ease.

Thomas h Johnson says:

February 5, 2018 at 4:35 pm (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1647789)

Reply (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/?replytocom=1647789#respond)

Excellent! Thank you!

Jasper J Huffman III says:

January 19, 2018 at 4:48 pm (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1644000)

Reply (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/?replytocom=1644000#respond)

I know that Jesus the Christ is God's one Son. He is my Master, Redeemer and Saviour. In Him I trust. Forever.

Joy Foster says:

February 7, 2018 at 3:29 am (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1648059)

Amen. 👍

Robbie Fields says:

January 7, 2018 at 7:55 am (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1640840)

Thank you.

Reply (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/?replytocom=1640840#respond)

Sue Williams says:

December 8, 2017 at 7:56 am (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1633994)

I love your teachings.

Reply (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/?replytocom=1633994#respond)

Richard Antoine says:

November 21, 2017 at 4:46 pm (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1630507)

Simple, effective and straight to the point. Lovely. God bless!

Reply (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/?replytocom=1630507#respond)

Elaine says:

November 17, 2017 at 10:06 am (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/comment-page-11/#comment-1629399)

Foe everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected! So that means we are not to reject the devil? I think people in general either go by the whole word of God or they pick and choose what they want to live by. I don't think it's our right to pick and choose what we want to abide by.

Reply (https://billygraham.org/answer/does-god-require-us-to-follow-the-old-testament-laws-about-not-eating-pork-and-other-kinds-of-meat-today/?replytocom=1629399#respond)

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